

of our Pacific coast during World War II and throughout the Cold War. Through the Navy's presence, Adak became the largest development in the Aleutians as well as Alaska's sixth largest community. With the end of The Cold War our defense needs changed, however, and Adak was selected for closure during the last base closure round.

Those very same features that made Adak strategically important for defense purposes also make it important for commercial purposes. Adak is a natural stepping stone to Asia and is at the crossroads of air and sea trade between North America, Europe, and Asia. With the ability to use Adak commercially, the Aleut people, through The Aleut Corporation can establish it as an important intercontinental location with enterprise enough to provide year round jobs for the Aleut people. These goals are consistent with the promises and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the legislation that created the corporation.

This rebirth of Adak is already well underway. The Aleut people assumed responsibility for the operation of the Island from the Navy last October and there are a number of new commercial enterprises and endeavors. At the same time a new community has begun to take shape. Just last month the new City of Adak was established as a result of a public referendum and is in the process of taking over responsibility for the many public facilities.

The Agreement resolves a number of important issues related to the transfer of this former military base and the establishment of the new community on Adak, including responsibility for environmental remediation, institutional controls, indemnification, required public access, and reservation of lands for government use.

This legislation furthers this country's objectives of conversion of closed defense facilities into successful commercial reuse, it benefits the Aleut people and restores them to their ancestral lands and it benefits the National Wildlife Refuge System. I believe everyone will agree that such legislation is important and worthy of our support.

PREScription DRUG BENEFIT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is far past the time for us to address the intolerable discrimination in drug pricing and provide a comprehensive prescription drug benefit now. These drug re-importation amendments fail to address the real issue of the lack of affordable prescription drugs and in turn provide no real relief.

Seniors should be able to buy American prescription drugs for the same price in Rochester as you can in Rio, in Mankato as you can in Mexico City, at their own pharmacies. We pass "buy America" legislation in this body all the time; yet here we are asking American Seniors to buy American alright, just not in America—go to Canada, or Mexico, or the Islands—just not at their local pharmacy.

Congress should pass legislation now to prevent drug companies from discriminating

against U.S. Seniors, allowing them to get their drugs at the same prices as their counterparts in other countries. I urge Congressional leaders to bring to the floor the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act (H.R. 1400), which I am a cosponsor of, to directly tackle the issue of price discrimination. It's time to stop the current price discrimination and provide a comprehensive prescription drug benefit for all Seniors. Not debate re-importation amendments that only provide band-aids and not real answers.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF BALDWIN, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 125th anniversary of the Village of Baldwin, Illinois.

The Village of Baldwin originally was settled about one mile north of its present location. The early settlers were the Henderson, Allen and Preston families. In 1874, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad built a railroad line at its present location. Later, a grain elevator was built along the railroad and the village started to develop. In 1876, villagers circulated a petition requesting the official incorporation of the Village of Baldwin. On July 12, 1876, at a special term of the County Court, this petition was presented to Presiding Judge John H. Lindsey and County Clerk, John T. McBride. The petition, signed by fifty legal voters, requested that the organization of the Village of Baldwin located in the County of Randolph be approved.

County Judge Lindsey approved the petition and ordered an election be held on Tuesday July 11, 1876 at the office of RH Preston Esq. for the purposes of voting for or against the organization of the Village under the general laws of the State of Illinois. William L. Wilson and James C. Holbrook, Justices of the Peace of Randolph County, canvassed the election returns, finding that all votes cast were unanimously for the organization of the Village. Judge Lindsey ordered that on August 8, 1876 at the office of RH Preston Esq., an election be held for six Village trustees and one Village Clerk. The first Village Board that was elected then was S.H. Johnson, J.E. Davis, W.T. Thompson, James R. Holden, W.M. Wilson and S.B. Adams. The elected Village Clerk was S.D. Lindsey. On August 11, 1876, the Board of Trustees held its first meeting. S.B. Adams was chosen as the President of the Board and W.S. Johns was appointed Village Constable and S.D. Lindsey was appointed Village Treasurer.

The Village of Baldwin prospered as a small trading Village throughout the years. The main business being a grain elevator, of which there has been one in Baldwin since its incorporation. At present, the elevator is owned and operated by Gateway FS. In 1932, Highway 154 was built through Baldwin to provide all-weather transportation to neighboring towns and communities. In September of 1940, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad was purchased by the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad and renamed the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio. Later it

merged with the Illinois Central Railroad and today it is part of the Canadian National System. Passenger and freight service was provided on the railroad until October 1958, when passenger service was discontinued in the 1980's. The present rail system supplies services to the Baldwin Power plant, Fairmont Minerals, the Kaskaskia Regional Port District and Gateway FS.

In the Village of Baldwin the educational system consisted of a three-year high school, a public grade school and a Lutheran grade school. The high school was discontinued in the mid 1940's and the school district became part of the Red Bud School District. In 1959, the public grade school closed and children were sent to Red Bud schools. The Lutheran grade school also closed in the mid 1970's and children attend either Prairie or Red Bud. Baldwin is also the home to many churches. Both the St. John's Lutheran Church and the Baldwin Community Presbyterian Church have organizations to promote the welfare of their members. The Village also has many varied civic organizations which include the American Legion Nicholas Laufer Post 619, the Baldwin Athletic Club, the Baldwin Community Development Association, the Baldwin Homecoming Committee and the 125th Anniversary Committee.

In 1964, the Village installed both water and sewer systems. The water plant received severe damage from the 1993 flood and the plant needed to be moved out of the flood plain. After deliberation by the Board, it was determined that the Village became part of the newly formed rural water system. In early last year, the Village water system became part of the Egyptian Water Company, which purchases water from the City of Sparta. The Village sanitary sewer system was upgraded in 1987 and with federal and state assistance, their water system is about to be improved.

In 1999, the old school building, which previously served as the Village Hall, was razed. With assistance from local political leaders, funds were made available for a new Community Center. Both State Senator David Luechtefeld and State Representative Dan Reitz helped to secure the new Center. This center, when completed, will be used for all community functions and also serve as a meeting room for the Village Board. Offices for the Village President and Village Clerk will also be included in this facility. Today, the Village of Baldwin is presided over by Jeffrey S. Rowold, Village President, Wesley G. Stelhorn-Village Clerk, Eileen Mehring-Village Treasurer, Craig Hartman, James Mueller, Darrell Mueth, Tammy Prost, Gary Schoenbeck and Cheryl Sellers all Village Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 125th Anniversary of the Village of Baldwin and to salute its past, present and future residents.

HONORING ALLEN RAMSEY

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. HILLEARY. Mister Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Allen Ramsey of Sullivan County, Tennessee for his meritorious service